

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, July 11. 1693.



Quest. 1. **A** Bout 18 Years since I was riding in Canon-street, where my Horse stumbled and flung me to the ground, but I rose up and took hold of the Stirrup to mount again, but at that instant I fell down a second time, my Sight failing me and being in a Swoon; some Porters there took me up, and carry'd me to an Ale-house: During all this time I saw no Body, but heard every thing that was said, and fancy'd my self in great Joyes — I desire to know the Reason that I lost all my Senses, except that of Hearing, which I had all the time that I was in that Disorder?

Ans. For your admiration we never bespoke it, and think it may be kept for better Uses — But if we can serve for your Diversion and Profit together, we have our End, and you are never the worse. To the first Question, It had been very necessary to have known what part of your Head fell to the Ground; if the fore part, as we believe it did, the vast Contusion there might either disorder the Animal Spirits that serve for Vision, or perhaps the Organs themselves, whilst those which serve for Hearing being deeper in, and better guarded, might escape. For the Joy you fancy'd you felt, it might arise from a sudden brisk Agitation of the Spirits, recoiling to their Fund within, and producing an unusual sort of a Sensation.

Quest. 2. I am a Batchellor, and have an Estate which I am very desirous should descend to one of my own Blood, and would Marry for that Reason, but if I should have no Children by my Wife — Whether my Marriage is not void, since I conceive Procreation is the End of Marriage?

Ans. But what if it should be your own Fault? Would you be willing to lose a good Bed-fellow? and are there not other Ends of Marriage besides what you assign? that it's true, one main Political End, for which Reason perhaps 'tis the State more easily grants a Divorce there than in other Cases. On the whole, We think you'd do better either to live Unmarry'd, or if you dare venture on the Noose, e'ne to tug it out, and if you've no Children let longest Liver take all.

Quest. 3. I have been in several Parts of Spain, France, Italy and Africa, and have Observed and been told by the Inhabitants of those Countreys, that Olive-trees do bear no Fruit but such as grow within Ten Leagues of the Mediterranean Sea — I desire your Opinion concerning that Secret of Nature? — Note, that tho' those Trees grow in great quantities farther than that distance from the Mediterranean Sea, yet bear no Fruit.

Ans. In Africa, the intolerable Heats further up in the Countrey, may perhaps be prejudicial to this Fruit, which are allay'd by the cool Sea-Breezes, and it's not impossible but there may be something in the very Air of the Sea, and that the Saltine-particles arising thence may make the Olive fruitful, which will reach the Olive of France and Spain, if this Fact be true.

Quest. 4. If a Woman and I have promised to live together faithfully like Man and Wife, according to the Laws of Matrimony — Whether the Carnal Knowledge of one another be in that Case Fornication?

Ans. We have often enough answer'd to Cases of this Nature, and again reply, that if it be not Fornication, 'tis yet, first, a great Folly in both, for she may leave you, or you her, which is most likely, instances of which are frequent, as we could prove by many complaints on our File of that Nature, besides the Injury it may be to your Children if you have any, then 'tis highly dishonourable, and every good Man ought to value his Fame, unless he'll plainly

own he's content to be Infamous. Lastly, 'tis a Sin, because against the just Laws of the Nation you live in, which ought to be Sacred, and were accounted so by the very Heathens; and 'tis against the Custom of all Civiliz'd Nations, Jews, Christians and Heathens, who have made Matrimony a solemn and publick thing, to prevent innumerable Inconveniences.

Quest. 5. Not long ago I was in the Country, and walking very early by a Wood, and setting my self down, I saw two Foxes come out of the Wood, and making each of them a hole in the ground (of a considerable bigness) they went to fighting, and a noise being made in the Wood; they both gave over. Your Opinion is desired for what they made those holes, and you will highly oblige a well wisher to your Society?

Ans. Perhaps to bury the Stain — perhaps to stop the Blood — perhaps out of Spite and Rage — Perhaps being over eager to fight, they might have some occasions to dispatch, which you did not take notice of, as 't has bin said of some great Generals, and scraped Holes there to lay it in, and then cover all out of cleanliness, as Dogs and Cats affect to do — Or perhaps after all there's not a Word on't true, but you have a Mind to make a Fool of my Lords Ape, and banter the Athenians, — as many a Wiseman of — Whitefryers has done before ye.

Quest. 6. A Gentleman on whom Nature had lavished her stock, to render him an unresisted Instrument of melting the Breasts of the softer Sex; yet notwithstanding the excellency of his Nature, as Poor in Purse as Aristides at his Death. This Gentleman (reflect not Sirs on the matter) has allured that Gift from me, which is only due to a Husband; and would willingly since be so: But my Fortune being inconsiderable, should I condescend to tie my self to this Favourite, I fear I should not only forfeit the Obedience due to those that gave me my Birth, but render my self despicable, and irretrievably Poor. Besides, I have a Despondency of my Friends Condescension hereto, for that they have introduc'd a Gentleman of an Inviting Estate, to be my owner, whose Person I could like, had I not first seen my handsome Deceiver. I am wrack'd with Confusion, what Resolution I shall take herein, and since my Poor Judgement is weak and imperfect, as is incident to my Sex; I intreat you'd speedily impart your friendly advice to your Distressed and Expecting Servant?

Ans. First Repent — then either remain unmarried, or marry him that has been so well acquainted with you — for you can't be justly any others — and besides the event may be Tragical, since the World is now generally too lewd to be cheated in matters of that Nature — We had not Printed this, but that others might take warning by your Example.

Quest. 7. Gentlemen, I desire to know, whether the Fire, as Fire, be destructively hot or not, but I would not have you Answer as others have done, to put my Hand or Finger into it and try, which if you do, I shall think justly you have a wrong Notion of what I intend, or else will not fairly answer it?

Ans. We think we understand you, and that by Destruction here, you mean Solution of Continuity. We answer, that this is in our Opinion, essential to true and proper Fire, tho' it may be so clogg'd with smok, &c. as in some Cases not to operate with so much Vigor, as it naturally would, or not put matter into so brisk a Motion.

Quest. 8. I have for some time made my Application to a Lady whom I love beyond expression, she entertains me with a civil Freedom, not ill becoming the strictest Rules of Vertue and Modesty, yet gives me

me some assurance of her affection by way of Protestation: We have often parted with an intent of never seeing one the other more, except by accident, and have made Promises thereto, but could never keep them. I have several times pressed her to Marriage, but she still alledging the extream Love she bears her Brother, (notwithstanding her Father and Mother are living) will not permit her to dispose of her self without his Consent, which is never likely to be attain'd, he being adverse to it, and my aversion to him so great, that I could not condescend to ask him, tho' sure to have his; it cannot be for Interest she loves him, he being a Gown-man and never likely to leave her anything; she has often assured me, were it not for him she would do any thing for me that lay in her power: Pray Gentlemen your Opinion: *Whether I have any ground to hope she has any Love for me, or that kindness she pretends be Real, when I believe she would forsake me and all the rest of the World for that Brother of hers: I am perswaded that the Love she bears him, must exceed the Rules of Vertue, or else she does not Love me at all. Your speedy answer will very much Oblige your unknown but most humble Servant.*

Ans. We are unwilling to conclude so Uncharitably as you do, tho' We confess any that reads the Story wou'd be tempted to do so. It may be only a just Esteem, however We confess, We can't tell what to make on't.

Quest. 9. I have long since continued in a very Vitious Course of Living, rendring my self incapable of resisting any Temptation, by first being guilty of Excessive Drinking, that inlett to all other Mischiefs. 'Tis my Misfortune to have Contracted too great a Familiarity with a Woman, who being sensible how much I despise her in my more sober and sedate Thoughts, endeavours chiefly to seduce me, in the midst of my Extravagance: My Case is such that I live near her, and Affairs compel me to frequent her abode. If (considering the Sin to God, as well as how detrimental the Consequence may prove to my immediate Fortunes) I resolve wholly to decline her, and all Conversation, especially with those most likely to occasion my Intemperance, I can then easily perceive the Aversion I ought to have, and in what manner to treat her; but again she daily confers some peculiar Favours on me, and diligently Uses all her Insinuating Charms and deluding Stratagems, a piece of Sophism Women seldom are Ignorant of, which sometimes prove so inviting, that the gaudy Baite tho' Treacherous and Destructive, becomes inevitably resistless, and Reason it self deprived of that Power which ought to withstand such damned Allurements. Thus I commit what is afterwards the Abhorrence of my Soul, knowing while I embrace her in my Arms, I only embrace my Ruine, and but the more involve my self in a thousand Troubles and Inquietudes of Mind; tho' I feign a Respect, fearing shou'd I in the least Disoblige her, I should Incurr her Hate, which I doubt will be very Inveterate, and greatly prejudice me in the Family where I live.

Gentlemen, *This Letter is of more moment than some Questions, whose Subject being intricate makes them only troublesome, which Encourages me humbly to entreat your Advice how I shall*

Disengage my self, and that you will be pleased speedily to publish your Answer?

Ans. That Fornication is damnable without Repentance, is own'd by all but Papists and Atheists — and 'tis as plain that there's no Repentance without Amendment, and We doubt no Amendment while you are near her; which if there be not, you ought to flye the Fair Destroyer, tho' twas to the Ends of the Earth. We have given you our Advice as brief and close as possible, and Pray God give you Grace to follow it.

✶ The MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL in Adams Court in Broad-street, near the Royal Exchange, London, is now Open'd; where Algebra, Geometry, and all the usual parts of the Mathematicks will be Taught. By R. Sault, Math. Profess. Those that desire, may be Instructed abroad. Youth Boarded. The Undertaker Obliges himself to Teach by Letters in any place in England, with the same Expedition and Success as by a Personal Attendance, when once a Correspondence is settled.

Advertisements.

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✶ The COMPLETE LIBRARY, Vol. 2. Containing an Historical Account of the *Choicest Books* newly Printed in England and in the Foreign Journals, as also the *State of Learning* in the World. To be Publish'd Monthly. This for JUNE. Price 6 d.

✶ A New Discovery of that unknown part of the Earth, call'd *Terra Incognita Australis*, or the Southern World. By JAMES SADEUR a French-man: Who being cast there by a Shipwrack, liv'd 35 Years in that Countrey. These Memoirs were thought so Curious that they were kept Secret in the Cabinet of a late great Minister of State, and never Publish'd till now since his Death. Translated from the French Copy printed at Paris by Publick Authority. Licensed and Entered according to Order. Price Bound 1 s.

Both Printed for J. Duntun at the Raven in the Poultry.

Next Thursday will be Published

The Secret History of the Confederacy, &c. Discover'd in a Conference between the King of France and his Chief Officers. To which is added Articles between Luxemburg, &c. As also the Expedient Proposed for a Peace. Translated out of French.

Printed for R. Baldwin at the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-lane.

At the Outropers-Office, the West End of the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, will be Exposed to Sale on Thursday the 13th. and Fryday the 14th. of this instant July an extraordinary Collection of Paintings and Limnings of several Eminent Persons lately deceased, by way of Mining, a Method not hitherto used in England. The Sale beginning precisely at Three of the Clock each Afternoon, and to be sold by Day-light. Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale.

✶ In Grays-Inn-lane in Plow-yard, the third Door, lives Dr. Thomas Kirleus, a Collegiate Physician, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King Charles the Second, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Business) undertakes to Cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Nose, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leprosies, and Venereal Disease, expecting nothing until the Cure be finished: Of the last he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and so destroys many. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. a Box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanse the Body of all Impurities, which are the causes of Dropsies, Gouts, Scurvis, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. With another Drink at 1 s. 6 d. a Quart. He cures all Fevers and hot Distempers without Bleeding, except in few Bodies. He gives his Opinion to all that writes or comes for nothing.

LONDON, Printed for John Duntun at the Raven in the Poultry, 1693.